GÖRING'S LAST LETTER TO CHURCHILL

'Nuremberg, October 10, 1946

Mr. Churchill! You will have the satisfaction of outliving me and my fellow sufferers. I do not hesitate to congratulate you on this personal triumph and the delicacy with which you have achieved it. You have truly paid a great deal for this success, both for yourself and for Great Britain. If I were to think you were naive enough to attach to it more than the significance of a spectacle caused by you and your friends - the peoples you maneuvered into war against the Greater German Reich and your Jewish and Bolshevik allies - then the declaration in the penultimate hour of my life would be wasted on an unworthy person, even in the eyes of posterity.

My pride as a German and as one of the most responsible German leaders in a world-historical conflict forbids me from wasting a single word on the disgraceful baseness of the procedure used by the victors, as far as I am concerned. But since it is the obvious and declared purpose of this justice system to push the German people into the abyss of lawlessness and to deprive them once and for all of any future possibility of defense by eliminating the men responsible for the National Socialist state , I have to add a few comments on the historical subject to this judgment passed by you and your allies.

I am addressing them to you because you are one of those who know most about the true background to this war and the possibilities of avoiding it or at least ending it at a time that is still acceptable for the European future, but you have refused to give your testimony and swear an oath to your own tribunal. I will therefore not fail to call you before the tribunal of history in good time, and I am addressing my statement to you because I know that this tribunal will one day name you as the man of Europe who, with ambition, intelligence and energy, threw the fate of the European nations under the wheels of foreign world powers.

I see you before history as a man who had the stature to bring down Adolf Hitler and his European work, but who will not be able to raise the shield in place of the fallen man to protect him against the Asian invasion of Europe.

Your ambition was to prove Germany right with Versailles. Your downfall will be that you succeeded in doing this;

you embodied the hardened defiance of your old master race, but you also embody the defiance of old age against the last great attempt by the renewed Germanic power to decide the fate of Europe on the steppes of Asia and to secure it for the future. When my responsibility has found its final objective judge in the further development of events, you will have to accept responsibility for the fact that the past bloody war was not the last one that had to be fought on its soil for the continent's means of survival . You will be responsible for the fact that yesterday's bloodbath will be followed by an even greater one, and that Europe will have to face the decision of life and death not on the Volga but on the Pyrenees. It is my fervent hope that you will at least live to see the day when the world and the Western nations, especially the British, will experience the bitter realization that it was you and your friend Roosevelt who sold your future for a cheap triumph over National Socialist Germany. This day will come sooner than you would like, and you will probably still be fit enough to see it, despite your advanced age, bloody red over the British Isles. I am firmly convinced that it will bring you all those terrible surprises which you have this time escaped thanks to the good fortune of war or the German military's aversion to a complete degeneration of the struggle between our kindred peoples. My knowledge of the state and extent of the weapons and projects in our possession which have become the booty of the Red Army - not least thanks to your military help -

authorizes me to make this prediction.
You will undoubtedly not fail to write good memoirs soon, as is your custom, and you will write them all the better because no one can now prevent you from reporting or concealing as you please. Nevertheless, you will be powerless against the corrections which a development brought about by you will invariably make. It will then be your task to give the peoples the answer which you owe to your show tribunal, and less to us, who wished nothing for your fairness . You think you have done a clever job of throwing this historical truth onto the dissecting table for the legal subtleties of a handful of ambitious legal subalterns and turning it into a dialectical treatise of propaganda, although as a Briton and as a statesman you know only too well that the existential problems of peoples could neither be judged in the past nor solved in the future by such means.
I have too well-founded an opinion of the cunning of your intelligence to expect you to believe the vulgar slogans with which you motivated the war against us and explained your victory over us as a circus spectacle.
I therefore declare once again, as one of the highest military, political and economic leaders of the Greater German Reich, with all my might, that this war was unavoidable only because the policy of Great Britain, under the influence of you and your like-minded friends, aimed in all areas at blocking the vital interests and natural development of the German people and - filled with senile ambition to maintain British supremacy - preferred the Second World War to a compromise which we have consistently and repeatedly sought.
I declare here once again expressly that the only guilt of the German people in the outbreak of the World War which you have forced upon us is that they tried to put an end to the oppression of their national existence which you have artfully maintained and artificially fuelled.
It would be like carrying water into the Atlantic if I were to speak to you about the causes, inevitabilities and motives which, in the course of the war, led to the political and military developments which your legal experts here have so unerringly managed to extend unilaterally at the expense of the Nazi state leadership of the German people. The devastated European cultural area and its historical wealth lying in ruins are today primarily evidence of the desperate bitterness with which a great and proud people fought for their existence yesterday with an unparalleled courage of sacrifice. Tomorrow, however, they will bear witness to the recklessness with which the superior power you alone led into the field handed Europe over to Red
Asiatics .
But Germany, which you have defeated, will take revenge on you precisely through its downfall, for you have neither pursued better policies than we have nor shown greater bravery than we have. You owe your victory not to better qualities and to an imagined superiority of your strength and art, but solely to six years of superiority of your coalition. Do not take it for what you would like to pass it off as. You and your country will reap the fruits of your political art all too soon . What you, as an experienced cynic, refused to accept, namely that our fight in the East was a supreme act of self-defence not only for Germany but also for the whole of Europe and that the real justification of all the acts you condemned so succinctly were or may be individual measures of German warfare, will very soon be proven to you and the British Empire by your friend Stalin, who is now your ally . You will learn that your need will then no longer know any commands and that you will not be able to successfully confront him [Stalin] either with legal cunning or with the weight of Great Britain and its European dwarfs. You have always maintained to the German people that your primary concern was the restoration of their democratic way of life. However, you have not said a word about the fact that you are also concerned with the restoration of the reasonable basis of life that has been denied to them for a quarter of a century. Your name is among all the fundamental documents of this era of British incomprehension and jealousy of Germany. Your name will also be among the results that this era of the liquidation of Germany has brought to the forefront of history for the survival of

Europe.
My faith in the vitality of the German people is unshakable. Germany will be stronger and live longer than you. But it pains me that it is defenselessly at your mercy and is now one of the unfortunate victims who, thanks to your success, are now moving towards not an era of blessed work for the realization of the common tasks set by reason for the Western peoples, but towards the greatest catastrophe of their common history.
I will spare myself the dispute over the excesses of which you accuse us, rightly or wrongly, and which correspond neither to my opinion nor to that of the German people, nor over those which were committed against millions of Germans on your side and on the side of your allies. For I know that under this pretext you have made the entire German people the object of a collective excess of a magnitude unprecedented in world history, and that in any case you will not act differently in your treatment of Germany, because since 1914 you have seen and striven for your goal in nothing other than the destruction of the German Reich.
These goals of yours deny you the right to judge the avoidable and unavoidable consequences which your cold-blooded determination provoked or which you welcomed as subsequent proof of the justification of your efforts. Today I regret the most serious mistake I made during the Nazi government, which I and our policy were subject to in assessing your statesmanlike insight. I regret having believed that you were capable of understanding the global political necessity of a pacified and viable Germany for the survival of the British Empire. I regret that our power and resources were not sufficient to force you to realize, at least at the very last minute, that the liquidation of Germany would be the beginning of the liquidation of the British world power.

We set out and each acted according to our own law, I according to the new one for which this Europe was already too old, you according to the old one for which this Europe is no longer important enough. I will know how to finish my journey in the certain knowledge that, as a German National Socialist, I was, despite everything, a better European than you. I leave the judgment on this to posterity, to which I sincerely hope you will remain for as long as possible. Perhaps fate will offer you another chance, as it was offered to me: to be a truth in ruin!

Hermann Göring